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(54) **Scalable architecture for an access node**

(57) A scalable architecture for use with an access node terminal disposed in an access network portion. A point-to-point, high-speed communication link provided between two adjacent banks of the access node logically interconnects a plurality of banks in a linear stack, thereby creating a stackplane hierarchy for local traffic. All interbank communications (i.e., traffic internal to the access node, such as data, inter-processor messaging, timing and synchronization) are carried on the stackplane using modified SONET carrier frames. The payload portion of the frames is mapped to hold different types of data and the overhead portion includes stackplane control and management information.

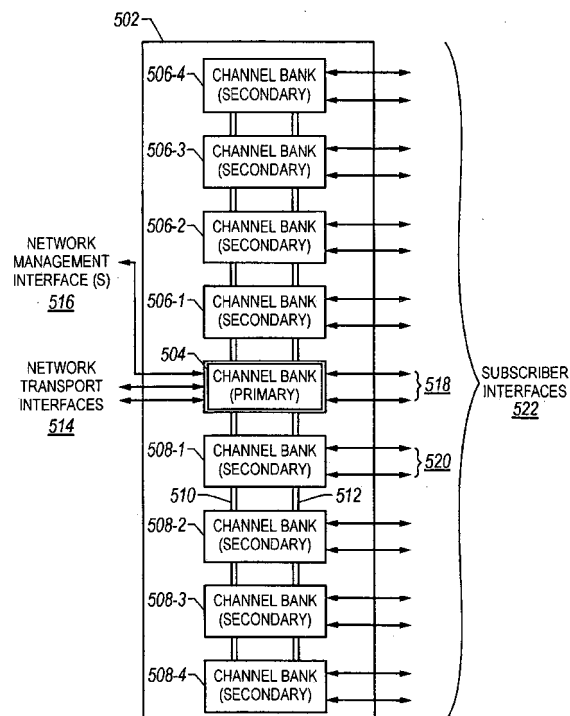


FIG. 5



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 01 3584

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 1 111 855 A (ALCATEL USA SOURCING LP) 27 June 2001 (2001-06-27) * abstract * * figure 1 * * paragraph [0004] - paragraph [0009] * * paragraphs [0011]-[0014] * * paragraph [0018] * * paragraph [0032] * ---	1-18	H04Q11/04H04J3/16
A	WO 00/11880 A (ALCATEL USA SOURCING LP) 2 March 2000 (2000-03-02) * abstract * * page 1, line 25 - page 32, line 10, paragraph 10 * * page 4, line 30 - page 5, line 21 * * page 45, line 6 - line 10 * -----	1-18	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H04Q
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 April 2004	Examiner Bernardini, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 01 3584

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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28-04-2004

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